(b) the number of those whose income tax was over-deducted and the same was to be refunded;

(c) the details of the refunds made so far; and

(d) by when all refunds are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No such data is maintained separately.

(c) Such data is not maintained separately. However, the total refund made under Personal Income-tax during the year 2007-08 up to October, 2007 is Rs. 6191.34 crore for the whole of the country.

(d) As per the guidelines issued by Central Board of Direct Taxes, the processing of returns is to be done within four months of receipt of the returns. However, certain refunds generated out of processing of returns filed in Delhi are likely to get delayed as there was a major fire accident in Income Tax Office at Mayur Bhawan on 6-10-2007 in which certain records have got damaged. Duplicate returns are being called through advertisements and direct letters to employers. As per the statutory provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961, the returns received in Financial year 2007-08 are to be processed by 31.3.2009.

Actions on CAG reports

1577. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports are prepared in the interest of the country after incurring thousands of crores of rupees and yet Central and State Governments do not act on the recommendations of the CAG reprots;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to make it mandatory for Government to act on CAG's recommendations in a time bound manner; and

(c) the number of CAG's audit paras pending for reply/action with Government for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Comptroller and Auditor General conducts audit under the mandate entrusted to him by the Constitution of India. The results of audit are communicated to the auditee organizations through inspection reprots and audit notes. The important observations are reported to the Parliament and State and UT legislatures through Audit Reports placed on the table of the House(s). These are discussed with the legislative committees with a view to ensure remedial action by the Executive. The auditee organizations and the governments do reply to audit observations made at various stages of audit indicating the action taken. It is, however, true that these responses are not sometimes adequate or timely.

(b) As per extant instructions, Action Taken Notes, on all paragraphs of the reports of the C&AG (including those selected by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) for detailed examination), duly vetted by Audit, are to be furnished to the PAC within a period of 4 months from the date of the laying of audit reports on the Table of the House. There is no proposal to make it mandatory.

(c) 1881 audit paras are pending with different Ministries/Departments of Union of India for the last three years.